

§ 3697B. On-campus educational and vocational counseling

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall provide educational and vocational counseling services for individuals described in section 3697A(b) of this title at locations on the campuses of institutions of higher learning selected by the Secretary. Such counseling services shall be provided by employees of the Department who provide such services under section 3697A of this title.

(b) **SELECTION OF LOCATIONS.**—(1) To be selected by the Secretary under this section, an institution of higher learning shall provide an appropriate space on the campus of the institution where counseling services can be provided under this section.

(2) In selecting locations for the provision of counseling services under this section, the Secretary shall seek to select locations where the maximum number of veterans would have access to such services.

(c) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the counseling services provided under this section. Such report shall include, for the year covered by the report—

(1) the average ratio of counselors providing such services to individuals who received such services at each location where such services were provided;

(2) a description of such services provided;

(3) the recommendations of the Secretary for improving the provision of such services; and

(4) any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

(Added Pub. L. 115-48, title III, §307(a), Aug. 16, 2017, 131 Stat. 993.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (c), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 115-48, which was approved Aug. 16, 2017.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

NATIVE VETSUCCESS AT TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PILOT PROGRAM

Pub. L. 117-328, div. U, title II, §211, Dec. 29, 2022, 136 Stat. 5451, provided that:

“(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section [enacting this note] may be cited as the ‘Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act’.

“(b) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 29, 2022], the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall commence carrying out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of expanding the VetSuccess on Campus program to additional Tribal colleges and universities.

“(2) **DESIGNATION.**—The pilot program carried out under paragraph (1) shall be known as the ‘Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program’.

“(c) **DURATION.**—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program required by subsection (b)(1) during the five-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

“(d) **PARAMETERS.**—Under the pilot program required by subsection (b)(1) the Secretary shall—

“(1) identify three regional Native VetSuccess service areas consisting of at least two participating Tribal colleges or universities that do not already have a VetSuccess program, counselor, or outreach coordinator; and

“(2) assign to each regional Native VetSuccess service area a VetSuccess on Campus counselor and a full-time Vet Center outreach coordinator, both of whom shall—

“(A) be based on one or more of the participating Tribal colleges or universities in the service area; and

“(B) provide for eligible students at such participating colleges and universities with all services for which such students would be eligible under the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(e) **ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.**—For purposes of the pilot program, an eligible student is a student who is a veteran, member of the Armed Forces, or dependent of a veteran or member of the Armed Forces who is eligible for any service or benefit under the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department.

“(f) **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.**—In developing the pilot program required by subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall, acting through the Veteran Readiness and Employment Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in coordination with the Office of Tribal Government Relations of the Department, consult with Indian Tribes, and Tribal organizations, and seek comment from the Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs of the Department, and veterans service organizations regarding each of the following:

“(1) The design of the pilot program.

“(2) The process for selection of the three regional Native VetSuccess service areas and participating Tribal colleges and universities, taking into consideration—

“(A) the number of eligible students enrolled in the college or university and in the regional service area;

“(B) the capacity of the colleges and universities in the regional service area to accommodate a full-time VetSuccess on Campus counselor and a full-time Vet Center outreach coordinator;

“(C) barriers in specific regional service areas that prevent native veterans’ access to benefits and services under the laws administered by the Secretary; and

“(D) any other factor that the Secretary, in consultation with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, and after considering input from veterans service organizations and the Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs identifies as relevant.

“(3) The most effective way to provide culturally competent outreach and services to eligible students at Tribal colleges and universities.

“(g) **OUTREACH TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**—The Secretary shall provide notice of the pilot program to all Tribal colleges and universities and encourage all Tribal colleges and universities to coordinate with each other to create regional service areas to participate in the pilot program.

“(h) **BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS.**—

“(1) **IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFING.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 29, 2022], the Secretary shall provide the appropriate committees of Congress a briefing on—

“(A) the design, structure, and objectives of the pilot program required by subsection (b)(1); and

“(B) the three regional Native Vet Success service areas and the Tribal colleges and universities selected for participation in the pilot program and the reason for the selection of such service areas and such colleges and universities.

“(2) **REPORT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than four years after the date on which the Secretary commences the

pilot program under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the pilot program.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include each of the following:

“(i) The number of eligible students provided services through the pilot program.

“(ii) The types of services that eligible students received through the pilot program.

“(iii) The graduation rate of eligible students who received services through the pilot program and graduation rate of eligible students who did not receive services through the pilot program.

“(iv) The rate of employment within one year of graduation for eligible students who received services through the pilot program.

“(v) Feedback from each Tribal college or university that participated in the pilot program, including on the regional nature of the program.

“(vi) Analysis of the feasibility of expanding a regionally based Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Program, including an explanation of the challenges of such a model due to issues with distance, communication, and coordination, and to the level of unmet services.

“(vii) A detailed proposal regarding a long-term extension of the pilot program, including a budget, unless the Secretary determines that such an extension is not appropriate.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

“(2) CULTURALLY COMPETENT.—The term ‘culturally competent’ means considerable of the unique values, customs, traditions, cultures, and languages of Native American veterans.

“(3) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term ‘Tribal college or university’ has the meaning given the term ‘Tribal College or University’ under section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c).

“(4) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal organization’ has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”

§ 3698. Comprehensive policy on providing education information to veterans

(a) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to individuals entitled to educational assistance under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning.

(b) SCOPE.—In developing the policy required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall include each of the following elements:

(1) Effective and efficient methods to inform individuals of the educational and vocational counseling provided under section 3697A of this title.

(2) A centralized mechanism for tracking and publishing feedback from students and State approving agencies regarding the quality of instruction, recruiting practices, and post-graduation employment placement of institutions of higher learning that—

(A) provides institutions of higher learning—

(i) up to 30 days to review and respond to feedback from individuals described in sub-

section (a) and address issues regarding the feedback before the feedback is published; and

(ii) if an institution of higher learning contests the accuracy of the feedback, the opportunity to challenge the inclusion of such data with an official appointed by the Secretary;

(B) protects the privacy of students, including by not publishing the names of students;

(C) publishes only feedback, and responses from institutions of higher learning to such feedback, that conform with criteria for relevancy that the Secretary shall determine;

(D) for each institution of higher learning that is approved under this chapter, retains, maintains, and publishes all of such feedback for not less than six years; and

(E) is easily accessible to individuals described in subsection (a) and to the general public.

(3) The merit of and the manner in which a State approving agency shares with an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b) information regarding the State approving agency's evaluation of an institution of higher learning.

(4) Description of the information provided to individuals participating in the Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10 relating to institutions of higher learning.

(5) Effective and efficient methods to provide individuals described in subsection (a) with information regarding postsecondary education and training opportunities available to the individual.

(c) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INFORMATION.—

(1) The Secretary shall ensure that the information provided pursuant to subsection (b)(5) includes—

(A) an explanation of the different types of accreditation available to educational institutions and programs of education;

(B) for each individual described in subsection (a) seeking information provided under subsection (b)(5), the name of each Federal student aid program, and a description of each such program, from which the individual may receive educational assistance; and

(C) for each institution of higher learning, for the most recent academic year for which information is available—

(i) whether the institution is public, private nonprofit, or proprietary for-profit and a definition of each type of institution;

(ii) the name of the national or regional accrediting agency that accredits the institution, including the contact information used by the agency to receive complaints from students;

(iii) information on the State approving agency, including the contact information used by the agency to receive complaints from students;

(iv) whether the institution participates in any programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) and if so, which programs;